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is direct, the language is simple and of a range of common objects that the learner needs to acquire at the outset as the basis of his practical linguistic knowledge; while there is a refreshing absence of needless terms and idioms which, projected too early into the learner's progress, merely serve to clog the wheels. We greatly feel the want of good material having such virtues of omission and commission. And but for the objections to be alleged against translations a highly nutritious and palatable sheaf of class reading-matter could be culled from the volume in question; stories of a specially strong dramatic movement, like *Quinquern* and *Los perros jaros* ("Red Dog"); and stories with a particularly fine and subtle philosophico-ironical vein, like *Los servidores de su Majestad* ("Her Majesty's Servants"), *De como vino el miedo* ("How Fear Came"), and *Los enterradores* ("The Undertakers"). A volume of this make-up would not exceed a hundred and fifty pages, and would have claims to distinction rarely possessed by selections made ostensibly for early reading.

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#### A PECULIAR RIME IN CHAUCER.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—The rime *dremes : lemes* in *Canterbury Tales* B 4119–20 has apparently not been noticed by Skeat or ten Brink. Here, according to etymology (*drēam : lēoma*) we have a clear instance of open *ē* from *ēa* riming with close *ē* from *ēo*. No similar case is cited by Skeat or ten Brink. *leme* does not seem to occur elsewhere in the undoubted works of Chaucer; but in the *Romanunt of the Rose*, Fragment B. ll. 5345–46, we have *bemes : lemes*. *leme* does not occur in Gower, or at least is not cited in the glossary to Macaulay's edition. Over against the Anglo-Saxon *lēoma*, which implies close *ē* for *leme*, are the sixteenth and seventeenth century spellings *leam*, *leame* (see *NED.*) which suggest open *ē*. May not *leme* have been affected by the analogy of *gleam*, which, coming from *glām* with umlaut *ā*, has open *ē*? Then the word may have had 'neutral' *ē* in Chaucer's time or have already acquired the open sound.

It is interesting to note that the rime *dremes : bemes* occurs just below, B 4131–32; and that, while all the MSS. of the six-text edition agree on the reading *dremes : lemes* in B 4119–20, the Harleian ms. has here also *dremes : beemes*. The Harleian corrector, whether Chaucer himself or an "unusually intelligent scribe," was evidently offended by a slightly imperfect rime and altered it at the expense of a repetition within a dozen lines. Or is the change nothing but an accident?

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#### COMPOUND NOUNS IN SWEDISH.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—In his "La Vie des Mots" (septième édition, revue et corrigée, Delagrave, 15, Rue Soufflot, Paris), page 23, Professor Darmesteter, speaking of the different manners of forming compounds observed in different languages, states: "L'anglais, seul des dialectes germaniques, a conservé un procédé de composition encore vivant en sanscrit et qu'il doit à la langue mère." The foot-note explains: "Le composé dont *good-hearted*, *great-minded* sont les types."

The statement is too wide. The Scandinavian branch of Germanic languages has compounds of exactly the same nature. The following, taken at random, may be cited from the Swedish:

öppenhjärtad = open-hearted;  
renhjärtad = pure of heart;  
trångbröstad = narrow-minded;  
ädelsinnad = noble-minded;  
lättfotad = light-footed;  
högättad = of illustrious descent;

(öppen = open; hjärta = heart; ren = pure; trång = narrow; bröst = breast; ädel = noble; sinne = mind; hög = high; ätt = lineage; lätt = light; fot = foot; -ad the most common ending for the past participle of weak verbs, here attached to nouns).

Respectfully,

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